ISUZU

DET-00-030

February 29, 2000

OOV-058 (01)

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance - NSA-01
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW -- Room 5321
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: 1998-99 MY Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Amigo, and Honda Passport –
Rear Axle Lower Link Connection –
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, on behalf of Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan (Isuzu), Isuzu Motors America, Inc. hereby submits a Defect Information Report concerning a safety recall of certain 1998 and 1999 model year Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Amigo, and Honda Passport vehicles to address a possible rear axle lower link problem.

573.5(c)(1):

Manufacturer:

Isuzu Motors Limited
26-1, Minami-ooi 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-8722 Japan

U.S. Liaison Office:

Isuzu Motors America, Inc.
46401 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

U.S. Sales Company:

Isuzu: American Isuzu Motors, Inc
13340 183rd Street
Cerritos, California 90703

Honda: American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, California 90501-2746

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Isuzu Motors America, Inc.
46401 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170-2479

734 455-7595
734 455-7452 FAX

We're looking to the future by recycling today.

573.5(c)(2), (3) and (4):

The required information concerning the subject 1998 and 1999 Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Amigo, and Honda Passport vehicles is shown on the attached sheet.

573.5(c)(5):

Paint was applied unevenly on the rear axles of some of the subject vehicles. In those instances where the paint was too thick, the allotted drying time may have resulted in insufficient paint hardness. Should this occur on the surface that contacts the rear axle lower link bracket bolt head and/or nut, the nut may later loosen, even though it had been originally tightened to the specified torque. This condition would likely initially produce an abnormal noise, but ultimately, the bolt could detach fully, causing separation of the lower link from the rear axle. This situation may result in loss of vehicle control and a possible vehicle crash.

573.5(c)(6):

The first incident of a rear axle lower link nut becoming loose and producing noise was reported in May 1999. The second incident of a similar case was reported in December 1999. Although no accidents or injuries had been reported, Isuzu then began an investigation. As a result of this investigation, Isuzu discovered the instances of insufficient control of the rear axle paint thickness and hardness. Consequently, notwithstanding the continued lack of reported accidents or injuries, Isuzu decided to conduct a safety recall campaign.

573.5(c)(8):

All owners of vehicles manufactured within the possibly-affected production period will be notified of the campaign. The rear axle lower link joint nut and bolt will be replaced.

Owner notification is expected to begin on March 31, 2000, and be completed by April 2, 2000.

573.5(c)(9) and (10):

Draft copies of the owner notification letter and dealer bulletin will be submitted as soon as they are available.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (734) 455-7557, ext. 264.

Sincerely,

Akira Nogami
Chief Representative
Emissions & Safety
Isuzu Motors America, Inc

/cfl

Enclosure

DET-00-030
Attachment

573.5(c)(2), (3), and (4)

Vehicles Potentially Affected by Make, Model and Model Year plus Inclusive Date of Manufacture

Make	Model	Model Year	Number Involved	Inclusive Manufacturing Dates		Other Description Information to Property Identify Vehicles		Estimated Number with Condition
				From	To	From	To	
ISUZU	RODEO	1998	67,309	July-97	August-98	4S2CM58W3W4300046	4S2CK58W5W4376745	0.2%
ISUZU	AMIGO	1998	9,374	December-97	August-98	4S2CM57WXW4327875	4S2CK57D7W4376848	0.2%
HONDA	PASSPORT	1998	25,440	August-97	August-98	4S6CM58W4W4400025	4S6CM58WXX4425464	0.2%
ISUZU	RODEO	1999	72,752	July-98	October-99	4S2CK58W3X4300040	4S2CK58W7X4384458	0.2%
ISUZU	AMIGO	1999	11,361	July-98	September-99	4S2CK57W5X4300042	4S2CK57D2X4382777	0.2%
HONDA	PASSPORT	1999	27,500	August-98	October-99	4S6CM58W5X4400004	4S6CK58W7X4427503	0.2%
		TOTAL	213,736					

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